without disclaimer or prejudice to applicants' right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a future continuation or divisional application.

Please add new claims 169-188 as follows:

--169. (New) An isolated nucleic acid consisting essentially of a nucleic acid encoding a human MCH1 receptor or a mutant of such receptor, wherein the human MCH1 receptor comprises consecutive amino acids the sequence of which is identical to the sequence of the human MCH1 receptor encoded by the consecutive nucleotides having a sequence beginning with the start codon at positions 1-3 and ending at the stop codon at positions 1267-1269 as indicated in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO: 1) or an analog or homolog thereof.--

--170. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 169, wherein the nucleic acid is DNA.--

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--171. (New) The DNA of claim 170, wherein the DNA is cDNA.--

--172. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 169, wherein the nucleic acid is RNA.--

--173. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 169, wherein the human MCH1 receptor has an amino acid sequence identical to that encoded by the plasmid pEXJ.HR-TL231 (ATCC Accession No. 203197).--

--174. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 169, wherein the

mutant human MCH1 receptor comprises the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 27.--

--175. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 169, wherein the mutant human MCH1 receptor comprises the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 28.--

--176. (New) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 169.-

--177. (New) The vector of claim 176 adapted for expression in a cell which comprises the regulatory elements necessary for expression of the nucleic acid in the cell operatively linked to the nucleic acid encoding the receptor so as to permit expression thereof, wherein the cell is a bacterial, amphibian, yeast, insect or mammalian cell.--

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--178. (New) The vector of claim 177, wherein the vector is a baculovirus.--

--179. (New) The vector of claim 176, wherein the vector is a plasmid.--

--180. (New) The plasmid of claim 179 designated pEXJ.HR-TL231 (ATCC Accession No. 203197).--

--181. (New) A cell comprising the vector of claim 177.--

--182. (New) The cell of claim 181, wherein the cell is a non-mammalian cell.--

--183. (New) The cell of claim 182, wherein the non-mammalian cell is a Xenopus oocyte cell or a Xenopus melanophore cell.--

--184. (New) The cell of claim 182, wherein the cell is a mammalian cell.--

--185. (New) The mammalian cell of claim 184, wherein the cell is a COS-7 cell, a 293 human embryonic kidney cell, a NIH-3T3 cell, a LM(tk-) cell, a mouse Y1 cell, or a CHO cell.--

--186. (New) An insect cell comprising the vector of claim 177.--

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--187. (New) The insect cell of claim 186, wherein the insect cell is an Sf9 cell, an Sf21 cell or a Trichoplusia ni 5B1-4 cell.--

--188. (New) A membrane preparation isolated from the cell of claim 181.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 32-34, 41, 43, 47, 83, 96, and 97 were pending in the subject application. Applicants have canceled claims 1-11, 32-34, 41, 43, 47, 83, 96, and 97; and added new claims 169-188. Accordingly, upon entry of this Communication, claims 169-188 will be pending and under examination.

Applicants maintain that new claims 169-188 raise no issue of new matter and is fully supported by the specification as filed.